

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-1267

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Noxon Rod & Gun Club

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Purchase trap-loader retrofit.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: the Noxon Rod & Gun club is located in Sanders County ½ mile SE of the town of Noxon at that part of the Northeast quarter (NE1/4) of section thirty (30), Township Twentysix (26), North, Range Thirty-two (32) west, M.P.M, which lies west of pilgrim Creek, being 17 acres more or less.

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): Modernization of this existing range will improve shooting opportunities and safety with the range.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): The objective is to provide increased opportunity to participate in safe organized and efficient operation with increased shooting opportunities.

7. Map:

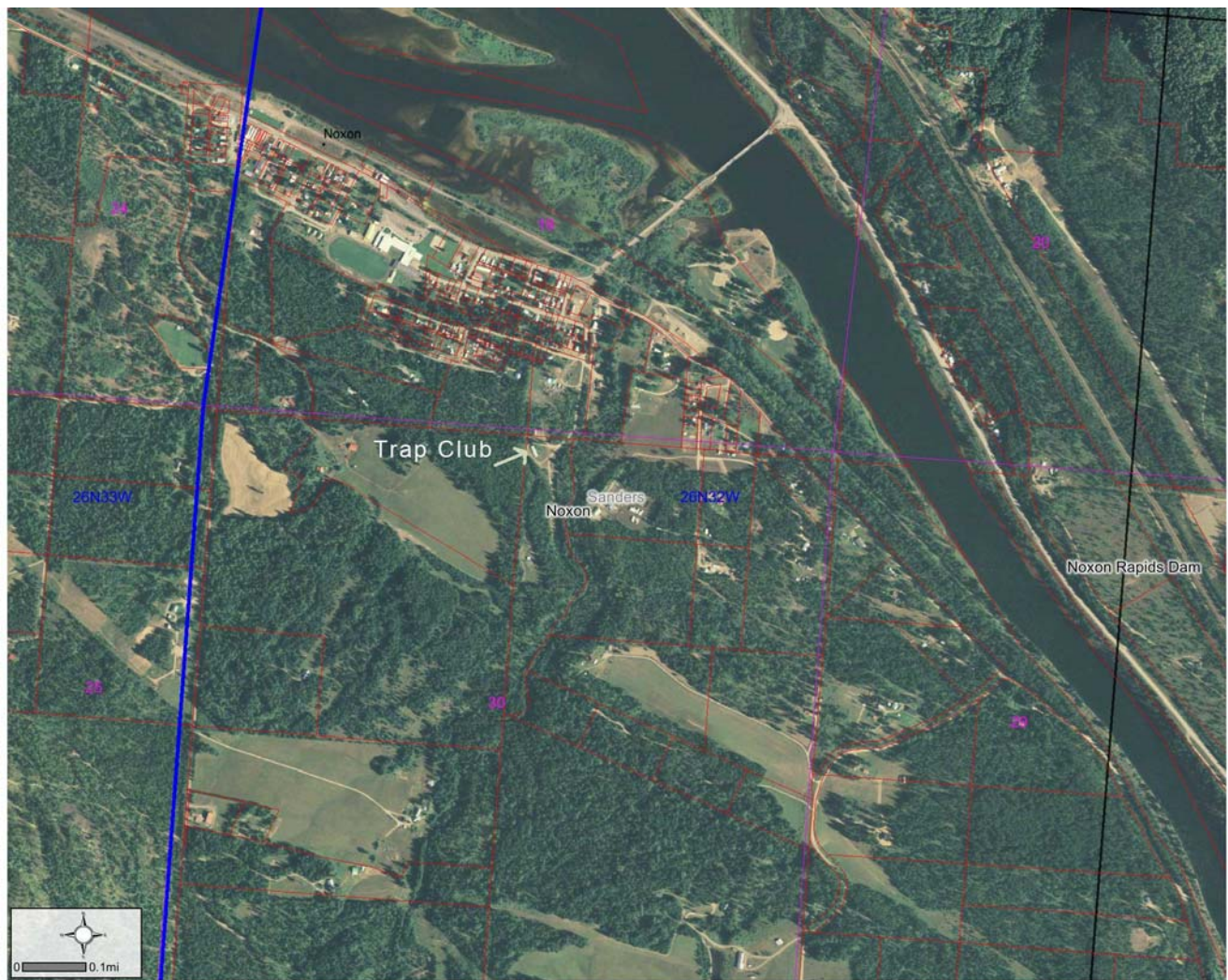


Figure 1 – Location of Noxon Rod & Gun Club

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected: Site is a 17 acre parcel of land located southeast of Noxon, MT as described in Paragraph 3 and Figure 1.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project): The range parcel is located on club owned property. Club range has been in existence since at least 1962. The surrounding area is rural with a few scattered

residences within the local area. The club properties, shot fall out zones and safety zones are more than adequate for safe operations of the range.

10. Description of Project: Purchase and install a traploader retrofit.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>
None Required	

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$1,327

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: 4-H, Junior Shooters, Hunter safety and Sheriff office

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: The current proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Robert Flansaas
Noxon Rod & Gun Club Inc
PO Box 1491
Noxon, Montana 59853

16. Other Pertinent Information: The Noxon Rod & Gun Club was incorporated in 1957. The shooting range was established in 1961.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist - The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		#2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		#5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. Pilgram Creek borders the east side of the property; however, the trap range is located approximately 200 yards from the creek. There are no ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

9. This project does not occur on state property and thus does not fall under the state Antiquities act.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		#7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

7. Range provides year round controlled access and fulfils a need for a range to accommodate both hunter education, and public shooting.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? No

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

- **Alternative A** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) Purchasing and installing a traploader retrofit.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** area will remain as an active trap range and the replacement trap will not be purchased.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Two alternatives have been considered, A (Proposed Alternative) and B (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (A) nor the no action alternative (B) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences for the acceptance of alternatives A to provide safe reliable and cost efficient new traploader retrofit.
- The No Action Alternative would be not to provide a new traploader retrofit.. The range would continue without these improvements. Land use would remain the same. Present activities of the range without the proposed improvements would continue. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

None

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Robert Flansaas,

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The project being proposed is on property owned by the Noxon Rod & Gun Club, Noxon, MT. The low impact routine activity proposed indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) to purchase and install traploader retrofit as outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: Kurt Cunningham

Date Completed: February 27, 2009

PART V. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None Required

Describe public involvement, if any:

None